

## Frequently Asked Questions for City of Chula Vista's Organic Waste and Food Scraps Collection Program

### **1. What is the City's Organic Waste and Food Scraps Collection program?**

- a. The City of Chula Vista is implementing the residential and commercial organic waste and food scraps collection program to comply with State law. The collected food scraps will be processed into a compost product and used to improve the soil.

### **2. Why is City implementing a food waste collection program?**

- a. In Chula Vista, nearly 30 percent of all waste sent to the landfill is food scraps. Decomposing food scraps create methane in the landfill which are responsible for 21% of California's total methane emissions. State regulation (SB 1383, 2016) mandates the reduction of methane emissions from landfills and requires municipalities to implement programs to reduce the amount of organic material disposed in landfills 75% by 2025. The goal of these programs is to reduce the amount of organics materials sent to our landfill to minimize greenhouse gas emissions. This program will help to achieve Chula Vista's Climate Action Plan goals for Greenhouse Gas Reduction. The food scrap collection program is anticipated to increase the City's waste diversion rate and will further the support sustainability efforts of the Office of Sustainability.

### **3. When will the program begin?**

- a. The Residential and commercial organic waste and food scraps collection program is estimated to begin in early 2022. Negotiations are ongoing with Republic Services and the program will need to be approved by City Council prior to implementation. City staff will provide updates to residents as the date for implementation approaches.

### **4. How do we participate?**

- a. Residential: Upon program implementation, rental fees for yard waste carts will discontinue. Residents that do not currently rent a yard waste cart will have one delivered.  
  
Businesses: Outreach will be provided prior to program implementation. Businesses will have organic's collection bins or carts delivered and notified of program service start date (estimated to begin early 2022). Businesses are urged to contact the Office of Sustainability staff to "right size" service levels to minimize cost.  
  
All residents and businesses will be provided with educational support.

### **5. What items will be accepted in the program?**

- a. All food including vegetables, fruit, breads, grains, meat, fish, dairy, food-soiled paper and food-soiled cardboard. Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) will not be accepted in the green cart.

### **6. Is it okay to put my fats, oils, and grease (FOG) into my green food waste collection container?**

- a. Fats, oils and grease, will not be accepted in the green organics container. You are still required to collect and dispose of it properly.
  - i. Put FOG in a bottle/container with a watertight lid. Call Republic Services at (619) 421-9400 two days before your regular collection day. Then put your FOG at the curb.

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OR

- ii. Take FOG to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility located at 1800 Maxwell Road on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 am -1 pm.

### **7. What about odors?**

- a. Collecting food waste should not be any more messy or smelly than putting food scraps in your black trash container. The same materials are being collected – just in a different container. Food waste must never be placed in a plastic bag. Paper bags will be accepted in the program. They can be used to collect food waste and can be placed in the green organics container.

### **8. What about rats, racoons, coyotes, or other pests?**

- a. If you've never had an issue with pests getting into your black trash container you should not experience any issues placing food waste in your green organics cart. Always remember to keep your lid closed on your green organics container and place food waste below yard waste when possible.

### **9. How much more will I have to pay for the food waste collection program?**

- a. The cost increase for the food waste collection program is unknown at this time. Negotiations between the City and the City's franchise trash hauler, Republic Services are ongoing, and the program has yet to be approved by City Council.

### **10. Do all residents and businesses need to participate in the organic waste and food scraps collection program?**

- a. Yes. State law requires the diversion of food waste/food soiled-paper and food-soiled cardboard from the landfill. All residents and businesses will be required to participate. City and Republic Services staff will be available to work with you to right-size your service for cost savings and optimal collection.

### **11. Where can I get more information on the City's food waste collection program?**

- a. Questions regarding the food waste collection program should be directed by email to the Environmental Services Division at [environmentalservices@chulavistaca.gov](mailto:environmentalservices@chulavistaca.gov) or by phone at (619) 691-5122.